SUBJECT No. 45

Local option in locating arrack shops.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Sindhe, Bangalore City Municipal Council.

Summary of discussion.—Arrack shops may be removed from villages in which the villagers are opposed to their existence and local option may be given in all cases.

Reply of Government.—As far as possible local option will be given.

SUBJECT No. 46.

Abolition of the tree-tax and the inclusion of the amount in the shop rent.

Messrs. B. Kesavaiya, Chikmagalur taluk, N. Nanjundaiya, Chikmagalur Municipality

Summary of discussion.—Owing to the present system of tree-tax, a large number of toddy trees are unavoidably destroyed every year by overtapping. So, in the course of some years, all the toddy trees may get exhausted or destroyed. In order to avoid this and secure a steady revenue to the Excise department, the tree-tax system may be discontinued and the income that would be lost thereby realized from shop rent. The proposed system will minimise illicit tapping, over-tapping and adulteration of toddy.

Reply of Government.—There are many difficulties. Not feasible.

SUBJECT No. 47.

Leasing out toddy shops.

Messrs. Krishna Murti, Maralu Siddappa, Dasappa, Arsikere taluk; Nanjegowda, Manjarabad taluk; Nittur Nanjundaiya, Chikmagalur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—Toddy shops are being auctioned every year and given to the highest bidders. Heavy bids are offered quite disproportionate to actual realisations. The contractors naturally have recourse to adulteration which is very injurious to health.

Excise contractors are ruined by unhealthy competition in auction sales and loss to Government also occurs in certain cases. So, auction sales may be abolished and the system of leasing out shops by means of tenders to local men at an amount estimated on three year's average of rental may be introduced.

Reply of Government.—Noted. Will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 48.

Tapping of bagani trees by *Hiduvalidars*.

Messrs. C. Vasudeva Rao, B. Kesavaiya, Chikmagalur taluk, N. Nanjundaiya, Chikmagalur Municipality and T. Narasinga Rao, North Mysore Native Planters' Association.

Summary of discussion.—As the malnad is getting depopulated mostly for want of healthy food and drink, raiyats may be allowed to draw toddy from bagani trees standing on their *hiduvali* lands free for the use of themselves and their servants.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 49.

Abolition of raiyats' liability for payment of tree tax.

Messrs. Rajanna, Narana Setti and Nanjunda Setti, Maddagiri taluk.

Summary of discussion.—If toddy contractors are allowed to tap date trees on occupied lands they usually pay to the occupants of lands only four annas per tree tapped. The failure of the toddy contractors to pay the tree-tax makes the landholder liable to Government for Rs. 2-8-0 per tree tapped and this is a hardship. The rule may therefore be so amended as to absolve landholders from the responsibility for the arrears of tree-tax due by contractors.

Reply of Government.—Not feasible.